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December 10, 2010

File Number: PG/05

The Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Natural Resource Operations
PO Box 9044 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Thomson:

Re: 2010 Union of British Columbia Municipalities Convention Follow up re: Derelict Vessels

Congratulations on your recent appointment as the Minister of Natural Resource Operations. We look forward to working with you on issues that affect the Islands Trust Area.

The Islands Trust is a federation of independent local governments that represents some 25,000 people living within the Islands Trust Area. The Islands Trust Area covers the islands and waters between the British Columbia mainland and southern Vancouver Island. It includes 13 major and more than 450 smaller islands covering 5200 square kilometres. The Islands Trust has a mandate to preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the trust area and of the province generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the Government of British Columbia.

The issue of abandoned and derelict vessels, barges and docks is a high priority for the Islands Trust. The serious safety and environmental contamination risks and the visual pollution posed by the growing number of these vessels and docks spurred the Islands Trust and other coastal communities to propose solutions to this issue at the 2010 Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Convention.

At the September 2010 UBCM Convention, we co-hosted a very well-attended workshop called *Finding Solutions for the Management of Derelict Vessels*. It brought together representatives from all levels of government and focused on possible solutions to the derelict vessel issue, and we were pleased so many senior Ministry staff could attend. A number of options emerged at the workshop and the discussions provided a basis for ongoing, cooperative and productive relationships on this issue.

At the convention we met with Minister Pat Bell to discuss local government concerns with derelict vessels, and were joined by representatives from Bowen Island Municipality, the District of Central Saanich, the District of Sooke and the Honourable Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands. We described specific problems local governments have had with the current framework for dealing with problem vessels, barges and docks, and requested Minister Bell's support for federal/provincial cooperation to develop a new approach to the issue. We were encouraged that Minister Bell was optimistic solutions could be found in the near term (by the end of the year, in fact) and hope you can give us reason for continued optimism.

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Preserving **Island** communities, culture and environment

Bowen Denman Hornby Gabriola Galiano Gambier Lasqueti Mayne North Pender Salt Spring Saturna South Pender Thetis

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We appreciate that your staff at the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations and staff at Transport Canada are continuing to work together towards the development of sustainable, workable solutions for the management of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks. We will work with AVICC to support this work in whatever way we can. Our staff contact for further information is Lisa Dunn, Director of Trust Area Services, who can be reached at 250.405.5174 or ldunn@islandstrust.bc.ca.

We look forward to your leadership on this issue and anticipate hearing good news shortly.

Sincerely,



Sheila Malcolmson
Chair, Islands Trust Council

Attach: AVICC Executive Resolution to 2010 UBCM Convention re: Derelict Vessels

pc: Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Forest, Mines and Lands
Honourable Murray Coell, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands and Minister of Environment
Islands Trust Executive Committee
AVICC Executive Committee
AVICC Derelict Vessel Sub-committee
Mayor Bob Turner, Bowen Island Municipality
Councillor Adam Olsen, District of Central Saanich
Mayor Janet Evans, District of Sooke
Islands Trust website
UBCM

AVICC Executive Resolution to 2010 UBCM Convention Derelict Vessels

At the 2010 AVICC Convention, four resolutions on derelict vessels were endorsed with a further resolution to AVICC to draft, in consultation with the respective sponsors, a single resolution incorporating all of the salient points of the four original resolutions for submission to UBCM by the June 30, 2010 deadline. Mayor Darren Inkster chaired a sub-committee comprised of Director Sheila Malcolmson and Clare Frater, Islands Trust; Councillor John Rogers, View Royal; and Councillor Adam Olsen, Central Saanich to draft the resolution and prepare a proposal on the issue for a clinic at the upcoming 2010 UBCM Convention. The resolution was then sent out to the original sponsors of the four resolutions for approval. The revised resolution was endorsed by AVICC Executive at their regular meeting June 11, 2010 and forwarded to the UBCM Resolutions Coordinator on June 15, 2010.

DERELICT AND ABANDONED VESSELS, BARGES & DOCKS

WHEREAS UBCM has previously endorsed a resolution on the topic of derelict vessels in 2005 and the issue of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges, and docks continues to be of significant concern and cost for local governments and harbour authorities in British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS there are many derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks that pose safety hazards, risks of environmental contamination and visual pollution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM petition the provincial and federal governments to develop a coordinated approach to the timely and adequate removal of all types of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks in all situations and consider the following strategies:

- funding mechanism(s) such as a fee on vessel registrations or a surcharge on marine fuel to fund the removal of derelict and abandoned vessels, barges and docks;
- designated disposal areas where owners can take their unwanted boats and structures to provide an alternative to abandonment on public property; and
- education and vessel product stewardship programs, for example fibreglass boat recycling centres.